

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENTS REGARDING ANTHRAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I know how proud the people of Jacksonville are to see you in the Chair today, and I am delighted to address the Congress and particularly to the people in my district, the 16th Congressional District of Florida.

Once again, our county, Palm Beach County, is in the news; and the news is not good. It is relative to a scare that is occurring in my community relative to anthrax.

What I do want to express to my constituents and to this community is the professionalism with which this issue is being dealt with on the ground. We have a phenomenal Public Health Unit, led by Dr. Jean Malecki, who is the head of the Palm Beach County Health Department. I want to give you a little story, if I can, because obviously this has caught a lot of people off guard and has caused a degree of panic in our community.

Dr. Larry Bush at JFK Medical Center in Atlanta was the first to treat the patient who presented himself, Mr. Robert Stevens, from Lantana. He noticed in examining the spinal fluids of Mr. Stevens that there was a very, very odd behavior to the spinal fluid, and what he was detecting was of quite serious concern. He sent the material to the lab for further investigation because it was unlike anything he had seen in recent time, and immediately called Dr. Malecki at the Palm Beach County Health Unit.

This is where the professional response team came in and played a pivotal and important role in determining the disease that he was suffering from, the bacteria that had infected him. Then, of course, Dr. Malecki immediately alerted CDC and the FBI. They moved expeditiously to our community and secured the premises, looked back

at where Mr. Stevens had been the last several weeks, investigated thoroughly all the various ways he may have been contaminated, tested all of the individuals working at the company, American Media, and did so in a relatively short period of time.

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Let me underscore the reason why I want to speak today and it is to applaud not only the Palm Beach County Health Unit, applaud Dr. Larry Bush for immediately investigating the pathogen that he discovered and alerting the authorities rather than maybe choosing otherwise and not to bring this to a heightened sense of awareness, and for John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital that has been in existence since 1960, ably represented by Mr. Phil Robinson who is the administrator for immediately doing the right thing, and that is public disclosure, that is notifying authorities, that is bringing in experts, that is conducting a total surveillance of a situation.

Let me read to you from the Palm Beach Post, our local newspaper. The editorial today is "Keep Confidence High During Anthrax Hunt." "To reassure the public as the anthrax investigation continues in Palm Beach County, the public health system must be at its best. Since last week, the community has seen the benefit of that system's strengths and the need for officials to face questions, not avoid them."

It goes on to say, Dr. Malecki, a specialist in epidemiology, the branch of medicine that investigates the causes and control of disease, began investigating Wednesday. A day later, CDC tests confirmed anthrax bacteria, and CDC officials immediately dispatched a team to our community as well as the FBI. Since the anthrax strain was not naturally occurring, goes the report, it is reasonable to conclude that someone introduced it to into the American Media building. Thus, the system will be tested further as the questioning increases. Conflicting messages and attempts to limit what information public receives will cause public anxiety.

That is where I want to stop and urge all people involved with this, and I have no reason to doubt that they are forthcoming. But we need to reassure the public every step of this investigation what we are learning. Every likely contaminant that he may have come in contact with to bring into perspective what may be at stake here. Yes, this is a scary time for many; but it is no reason for panic because the professionals, the health teams, the FBI and others are down on the ground working.

What I would like to finish with in conclusion is the last paragraph. In fact, the system is working with a proper combination of urgency and responsibility. Some of the best medical minds at all levels of government are working around the clock to find out what happened and who did it. Let me repeat, some of the best medical minds

at all levels of government are working around the clock to find out what happened and who did it.

Given the stakes and the jittery public mood, this is the public health system the public should see. I salute Dr. Malecki. I salute the team of professionals who are on the ground. I thank Secretary Thompson and his agencies at HHS for keeping me briefed on this urgent matter. I thank the FBI and others for their detailed and thorough investigation of this scene to reassure our community that we are on top of this situation and we will determine who caused this and when and how it was delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues as well for their support during the past several weeks for all of the victims of terror, for their support of the President and particularly his recent directive urging a little bit of secrecy, if you will, in the plans as he is outlining them so we do not have a rush to judgment nor a release of information that could harm some of our personnel as they enter into engagement in these battles.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and applaud the 23 million people of Taiwan for their support of the United States in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack on our country.

From the beginning, Taiwan's message for United States and the world has been clear. Taiwan condemned terrorism and especially those perpetrators who killed thousands of innocent people and disrupted the lives of millions of people worldwide.

Taiwan has stood with the United States in its love for democracy and freedom. The strength of our nations to overcome disasters and terror has never been clearer.

The terrorists on September 11 hoped to destabilize our economy and strike fear in those countries that believe in the Democratic principals of freedom and peace. They did not succeed and will not succeed because of friends like